11

SUPERMAN™

THE LEX LUTHOR REVENGE SQUAD STRIKES!

WILLIAMSON
BALDEÓN
LOKUS

13+
TEEN

DAWN OF DC

MONSTER MEN STRIKE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

THE BAT-MAN FIRST KNIGHT

DAN JURGENS MIKE PERKINS

A CHILLING BAT-MAN ADVENTURE SET IN THE YEAR 1939

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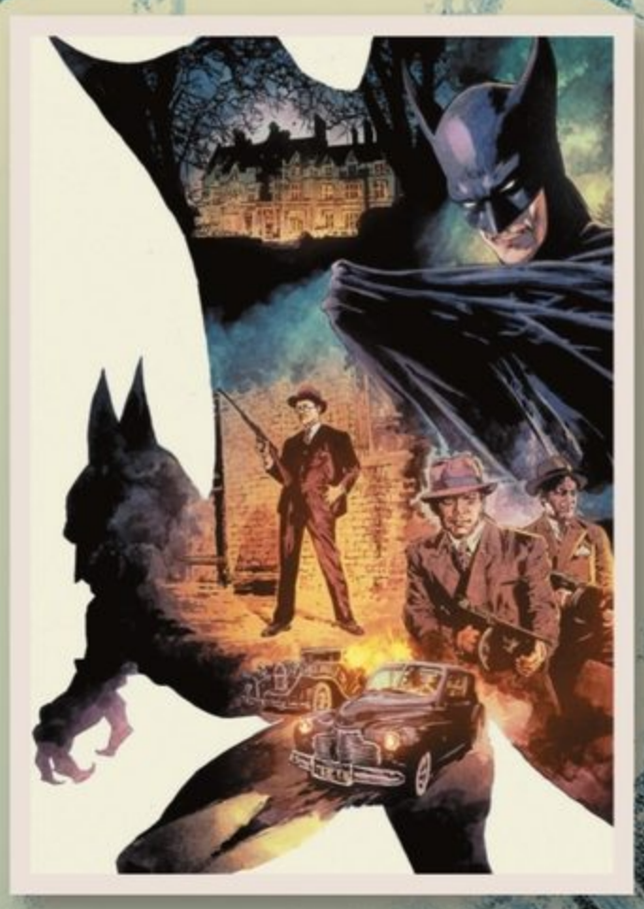
AS TOLD BY...

WRITER
DAN JURGENS

ARTIST
MIKE PERKINS



MAIN COVER BY MIKE PERKINS

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AGES 17+

MARCH

EVERY MOVE MY BROTHER AND I HAVE MADE HAS BEEN BUILDING TO THIS MOMENT.
"TESTING YOUR LIMITS AND RESOLVE.
"USING THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE. ALLIES AND ENEMIES.
"ALTERING THEIR POWERS IN NEW, DANGEROUS WAYS.
"FREEING THE CHAINED FROM HIS DECADES-LONG IMPRISONMENT BY LEX TO MAKE YOU QUESTION HIM...
"EVEN THE COSTS OF YOUR BATTLE FOR METROPOLIS WERE ALL PART OF OUR GAME..."

YEERRRG!

EXCEPT NOW HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS FRIENDS TO HELP HIM, GRAFT!

THIS TIME I'LL KILL YOU FIRST, SUPERMAN!

SUPERMAN!

HOLD ON, CHAINED.

THE DEATH OF THE MAN OF STEEL WON'T SERVE OUR NEEDS.

WE NEED HIM TO JOIN US.

KILLING LEX WOULD BE TOO EASY.

WE WANT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING LEX CARES ABOUT...

THE KRYPTONITE GAS... HOW...?

...BUT THE CHALLENGE IS THAT LEX CARES FOR SO LITTLE. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO REALLY HURT HIM?

HIS COMPANY? METROPOLIS?

OR HIS LEGACY...?

The last son of a dying world, Kal-El came to Earth with powers and abilities beyond those of mortal humans. He was found and raised by a kindly couple in Smallville, Kansas, and imbued with the values of truth and justice by his adoptive parents. Now serving as a reporter for a major metropolitan newspaper, Clark Kent takes to the skies to use his gifts for the betterment of the world as...

SUPERMAN™

Chapter Eleven

Superman and his archenemy Lex Luthor have been forced to work together to combat the evil Dr. Pharm and Mr. Graft. Beaten, stabbed, sent back in time, and forced to relive brutal memories...the pair has been through a lot. But this so-called Lex Luthor Revenge Squad has reached its endgame, and the terror wrought by Pharm and Graft rages on...

LEX LUTHOR REVENGE SQUAD

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Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

A FEW HOURS EARLIER.
SUPERCORP TOWER.

HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE, LENA?

I CAN ASK YOU ANYTHING, LL-01? ANYTHING AT ALL?

THAT IS CORRECT. I WAS DEVELOPED BY LEX LUTHOR TO ASSIST SUPERMAN IN HIS ACTIVITIES RUNNING *SUPERCORP*.

HENCE, MY SYSTEMS HAVE FULL ACCESS TO SUPERCORP'S DATA, INCLUDING LEX LUTHOR'S PERSONAL FILES.

REALLY? HM.

OKAY...

WHO IS *LENA LUTHOR?*

LENA LUTHOR. DAUGHTER OF ***LEX LUTHOR*** AND ***CONTESSA ERICA ALEXANDRA DEL PORTENZA.***

LEX LUTHOR GAVE HIS DAUGHTER TO ***BRAINIAC 13*** IN EXCHANGE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FROM THE FUTURE.

"GAVE"...

LENA WAS RAISED IN THE FUTURE AND WAS FORCED TO BE AN AVATAR FOR BRAINIAC 13 IN THE PRESENT DAY.

FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF THE ***IMPERIEX WAR,*** LENA WAS RESCUED BY SUPERMAN AND RETURNED TO LEX LUTHOR.

AFTER LEX PURGED LENA OF ALL CONNECTIONS TO BRAINIAC, LENA WAS THEN SENT TO LIVE ON A PRIVATE ISLAND WITH HER GRANDMOTHER ***LETICIA LUTHOR.***

RECENTLY RETURNED TO METROPOLIS, LENA IS CURRENTLY AN EMPLOYEE OF SUPERCORP.

WOW, THAT'S ***IT?***

I GUESS I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IN MY FATHER'S OWN FILES HE'D HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT ME...

YOU ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN THOSE ***WORDS,*** LENA.

THE REALITY IS... YOU *SCARE* LEX.

AND NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU REPRESENT HIS GREATEST SIN...

...BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE SO MUCH *SMARTER* THAN MY SON.

YOUR FATHER IS PART OF A LONG LINE OF SELFISH PEOPLE WHO GRIND DOWN ANYONE THEY SEE AS A THREAT.

I BLAME MYSELF. I TRIED TO PROTECT HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, BUT ONCE I SAW HE WAS A LOST CAUSE, I LEFT--

I'VE HEARD HOW MUCH YOU HATE HIM, OKAY? I GET IT, GRANDMA.

THEN WHY DID YOU CHOOSE *HERE* OF ALL PLACES TO WORK?

BECAUSE OF LEX'S INCARCERATION, YOU FINALLY GET OFF THAT CURSED ISLAND HE BANISHED US TO, AND YOU *STILL* CHOOSE TO WORK FOR YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY?

IT'S NOT *HIS* COMPANY, REMEMBER?

IT'S *SUPERMAN'S* COMPANY NOW.

HM.

AND *THIS* IS YOUR ACT OF *SPITE,* IS THAT IT?

MAYBE YOU'RE MORE LIKE *ME* THAN--

OKAY, PEOPLE, LISTEN UP!

WE'VE GOT A MISSING *SUPERMAN.*

I NEED EVERY DEPARTMENT ON THE CASE.

SUPERNATURAL, TIME-TRAVEL, THE GODSPHERE, MULTIVERSE, WHATEVER.

CHECK EVERY CORNER OF EXISTENCE, IF YOU HAVE TO.

WE NEED TO FIND SUPERMAN *NOW.*

SUPERMAN IS GONE?

WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.

LENA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO HELP MERCY!

ACCESS THE *SUPER-ARMOR'S* ONBOARD SECURITY.

PULL UP THE CAMERAS AND THE VITALS.

SHOW ME WHAT HAPPENED AGAIN.

LOOKS LIKE OUR GUY WAS WINNING, BUT THEN ***MR. GRAFT*** HIT MARILYN MOONLIGHT WITH A BLAST FROM HIS KLAW.*

THEN SUPERMAN WAS JUST ***GONE.*****

IF ONLY I WAS NOT TRAPPED IN THIS INFERNAL PRISON CELL, I COULD BE OF MORE HELP.

PATCH ME INTO THE SUIT'S DIAGNOSTICS, ***MERCY.***

I NEED TO SEE IF IT PICKED UP ANYTHING ON MOONLIGHT. I HAVE AN IDEA...

STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.

*IN *SUPERMAN* #9 --PK

**TRAPPED IN THE OLD WEST-- GREAT SCOTT! --PK AGAIN

YOU GOT IT, ***MR. LUTHOR.***

WHILE YOU DO THAT...

GREEN KRYPTONITE IS ALREADY SUPER RARE. THE OTHER COLORS ARE NEXT TO ***IMPOSSIBLE*** TO FIND.

HOW DID THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON THEM...?

SUPERCORP FILE 1274878592

Green

Red

Yellow

Blue

Black

White

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU LOST HIM?

WE'LL GET SUPERMAN BACK, LOIS.

MR. LUTHOR HAS A THEORY.

OF COURSE HE DOES...

I HEARD THAT, LANE...

MARILYN MOONLIGHT'S POWERS OPERATE ON A SPECTRAL LEVEL. WE SHOULD START THERE.

I'VE RUN OUR INITIAL TESTS BY THE SUPERNATURAL FORENSICS DEPARTMENT'S TOP MINDS AND--

ACTUALLY, FATHER, THAT WAS A WASTE OF TIME.

JUDGING BY ***YOUR*** ENEMIES' RECENT ACTIONS TOWARD PARASITE AND SILVER BANSHEE, PHARM AND GRAFT ARE USING KRYPTONITE TO CREATE DIFFERENT REACTIONS IN THEIR VICTIMS. WE NEED TO--

WHOOO WHOOO WHOOO

WHAT ***NOW?***

THAT'S ODD. SOMETHING TRIGGERED THE ALARMS ON THE LOWER LEVELS...

WHOOO WHOOO WHOOO

OH NO... WHEREVER ***SUPERMAN*** IS NOW...

...WE NEED HIM TO ***STAY THERE.***

"IT'S **PHARM AND GRAFT.**

SUPERCORP, ACTIVATE SAFE ROOM PROCEDURES ***NOW.***

CLEAR OUT. DROP WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING AND ***GO.***

OH NO... THEY'RE HEADED TOWARD ***THE CHAINED'S*** CELL...IF THEY FREE HIM...

YOU SAID, "WE NEED HIM TO STAY THERE"...

WHY WOULDN'T WE WANT SUPERMAN HERE, MERCY?

THE LAST TIME WE SAW SUPERMAN, HE HAD SEVERE KRYPTONITE POISONING.

GRAFT HAS THAT KRYPTONITE KLAW, AND IF IT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH SUPERMAN, IT COULD KILL HIM.

WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

BOOM

MERCY IS DOWN, GRAFT. SUPERCORP'S SYSTEMS WILL BE OURS SOON.

AFTER I CONTAIN A FEW OTHER ELEMENTS.

ARMOR: ACTIVATE NONLETHAL CONTAINMENT...

SORRY, LANE.

DAD, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LENA? WHAT IS THAT SOUND?!

WAIT...IF YOU'RE STILL IN *STRYKER'S*, THEN WHO IS...?

I'M TAKING BACK WHAT IS MINE, LENA.

TSSH

LEX DIDN'T START THIS COMPANY.

I DID.

THEN HE ***STOLE IT FROM ME,*** EMBARRASSED ME, AND SENT ME TO SOME ISLAND TO BABYSIT HIS LITTLE BRAT.

THE LEAST HE COULD HAVE DONE WAS ***KILL ME.***

GRANDMA...

WHAT...

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGO.

BLAST

BLAST

BLAST

NO!

C'MON, THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE HERE WHO CAN HELP ME...

MERCY? LOIS? HELLO? WHERE IS--

SUPERMAN, YOU HAVE TO RUN!

LENA?

WHAT HAPPENED?

PLEASE, FLY AWAY, PLEASE!

BACK TO NOW...

...BUT THE CHALLENGE IS THAT LEX CARES ABOUT SO LITTLE. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO REALLY *HURT HIM?*

HIS COMPANY?

METROPOLIS?

OR HIS *LEGACY...?*

IT'S TIME, SUPERMAN.

JOIN US...

HELP US DESTROY LEX LUTHOR ONCE AND FOR ALL.

NEVER!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, SUPERMAN.

WE EXPECTED RESISTANCE.

BUT INDULGE ME FOR A MOMENT WHILE I TELL YOU A SECRET.

THE KRYPTONITE THAT MY KLAW USES IS ALL *SYNTHETIC*.

ENGINEERED IN OUR LABS...

"WE WERE ABLE TO GET OUR HANDS ON SOMETHING CLOSE ENOUGH TO *YOUR* PHYSIOLOGY TO RUN SOME PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTS.*

*AS SEEN WAY BACK IN *SUPERMAN* #1! --PULL-LIST PAUL

"IT TOOK TIME. TRIAL AND ERROR THE LAST FEW MONTHS, BUT WE MANAGED TO *CRACK IT.*"

AND WE'VE HARNESSED THE KRYPTONITE IN WAYS NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

EACH COLOR HAS A SPECIAL QUALITY.

RED KRYPTONITE DOES SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO YOU EACH TIME.

BUT I DID MY RESEARCH AND SAW THAT ONCE UPON A TIME...

...IT MADE YOU ANGRY.

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WAIT FOR IT...

UFF...

AND NOW OUR *FAMILY* IS COMPLETE.

IT'S TIME LUTHOR *PAYS* FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.

NOT JUST TO *US*...

...BUT TO THE WORLD.

SUPERMAN, NO!

THIS ISN'T YOU!

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS! DON'T KILL MY DAD!

STOP, LENA. THIS IS FOR THE BEST. YOUR FATHER HAS HAD THIS COMING A LONG TIME.

GRANDMA, *PLEASE*...

LETICIA. LET YOUR DARLING GRANDDAUGHTER GO.

YOU HAVE *OTHER* ENGAGEMENTS.

YOU'RE RIGHT...NOW THAT SUPERMAN HAS SEEN THE LIGHT...

...IT'S TIME TO EXECUTE THE ***NEXT STEP*** OF OUR PLANS.

SUPERMAN, PLEASE, ***DON'T...***

HOW CAN YOU DEFEND HIM? AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ***YOU,*** LENA?

GRAFT, JUST AS WHEN WE FIRST MET, YOU STILL LACK THE ABILITY TO SEE THE WHOLE BOARD IN OUR GAME.

AND YOU'VE MADE A CRITICAL ***ERROR.***

OH REALLY, LEX? ***ENLIGHTEN ME.***

NO ONE WANTS AN ANGRY SUPERMAN.

DOES HE ***SCARE*** YOU?

GRAFT... YOU'RE ASSUMING HE'S ONLY ANGRY WITH ***ME.***

WHAT? WHO ELSE WOULD HE BE...

OH NO...

ZZZ

UK.

BOOM

LENA... RUN.

NO WAY, WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO HELP SUPERMAN!

LUTHOR!

GRAFT WAS RIGHT!

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO ME.

WHAT YOU STOLE FROM ME.

YOU DESERVE TO DIE!

NOT TODAY.

SHUNK

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT I HAD TO.

LONG AGO I HYPOTHESIZED THAT THE GREEN KRYPTONITE COULD NEGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE RED...

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I WASN'T SURE THAT WOULD WORK.

DAD, HE'S *DYING!*

I KNOW, LENA...WE MUST--

IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S TOO LATE.

WE TOLD YOU BEFORE. THIS WAS NOT JUST ABOUT KILLING LEX.

LEX ONLY CARES ABOUT *HIMSELF.*

AND HIS *LEGACY.*

SO WE'VE UNLEASHED SOMETHING THAT WILL RUIN LEX *FOREVER.*

AND NOW LETICIA WILL ENSURE THE WORLD WILL KNOW LEX DID THIS.

IS THAT... KRYPTONITE?

BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY HURT HUMANS.

OH, BUT IT DOES...

KRYPTONITE RADIATION CAN IMPACT A HUMAN... *OVER TIME.*

LEX LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY...

WHAT IF WE CREATED A NEW KIND OF KRYPTONITE THAT ALSO AFFECTED *HUMANS* IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME IT DOES *SUPERMAN?*

THIS WAS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG...TO MAKE KRYPTONITE THAT CAN KILL ANYONE?

HA!

I'M FLATTERED, SUPERMAN...BUT WE ARE NOT THE ARCHITECTS OF THIS PLOT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SUPERMAN...

THIS WAS NOT GRAFT OR PHARM'S PLAN AT ALL...

"...THIS WAS *MY* PLAN.

"I CREATED IT, YEARS AGO...

"...AND NOW ALL OF METROPOLIS WILL PAY FOR MY GENIUS."

NEXT ISSUE:

"LEX LUTHOR *VS. TRUTH!*"

THE HIT WEBTOON SERIES IS NOW IN PRINT!

RED HOOD: OUTLAWS

volume ONE

It's an ill-fated road to redemption as the Outlaws try to go legit... and fail spectacularly.

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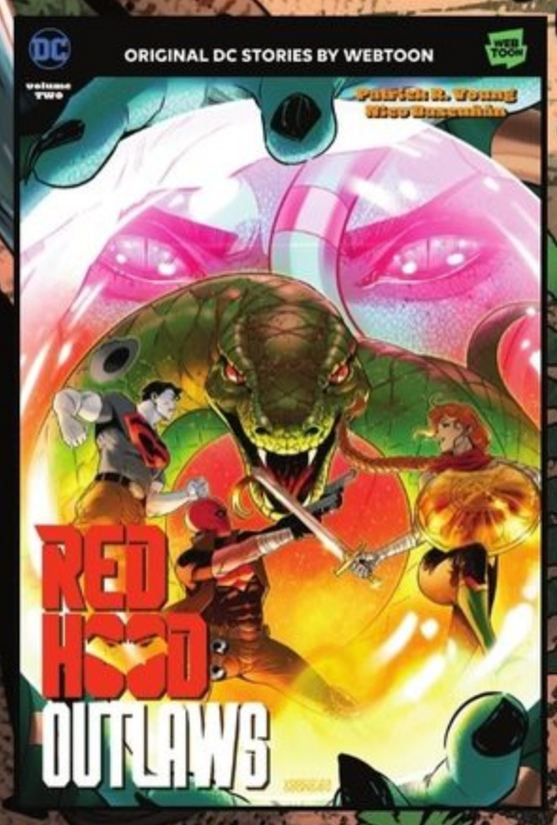

WRITTEN BY
Patrick R. Young

DRAWN BY
Nico Bascuñán

AVAILABLE NOW!

Don't miss *Red Hood: Outlaws Volume Two* in July!

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE BAT-MAN: FIRST KNIGHT

DAN JURGENS MIKE PERKINS

INTERVIEW WITH DAN JURGENS

Legendary writer Dan Jurgens and superstar artist Mike Perkins take the Caped Crusader back to his roots in *The Bat-Man: First Knight* from DC Black Label. Set in Batman's debut year of 1939, this three-issue Prestige Plus format series takes Batman on a noir-inspired case that defies all known science. DC Nation sat down with Dan Jurgens to discuss writing the series.

What inspired telling a Batman story set in the year that Batman first debuted?

I've always been a fan of that era, as it's filled with incredible change, tragedy, and atmosphere. There's something tremendously compelling about Batman's early appearances and the way the stories reflect the era. We're using that period to frame Batman in a very particular way.

Which classic Batman stories did you research to prepare to write this series?

This story takes place during the Bat-Man's first few appearances in *Detective Comics*. In our story, Bruce Wayne has only been the Bat-Man for a few weeks. It's very new for him and he's questioning himself throughout the process. So we use the era, environment, and tone of his earliest stories as our inspiration.

What are some of the differences between this Bat-Man and the contemporary Batman?

We have gotten to the point where Batman is almost impossibly capable, utilizing an array of devices and tech at his fingertips. Our Bat-Man is just the opposite. At this point, there is no Batcave. He has several cars, a garage, and a grasp of forensic science as it existed at the time.

What has it been like writing a story for DC Black Label and using the freedom offered by it?

I love that DC Black Label offers the chance to focus on the thematic elements. Also, with the larger page count, we can slow the story down a bit to explore things in depth. It also gives Mike Perkins more room to play with storytelling techniques, as well as the time to do the research necessary to capture the era. His work on this is just stunning to look at.

What was the balance of telling a story true to the time period, but also making it modern for today's audience?

The idea of balance is built around the parallels between the 1930s and now. There are some clear differences, but at the same time, enough in common that aspects of this story will definitely relate to things we're seeing and experiencing now.

DON'T MISS *THE BAT-MAN: FIRST KNIGHT* #1, ON SALE THIS MARCH!

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AGES 17+

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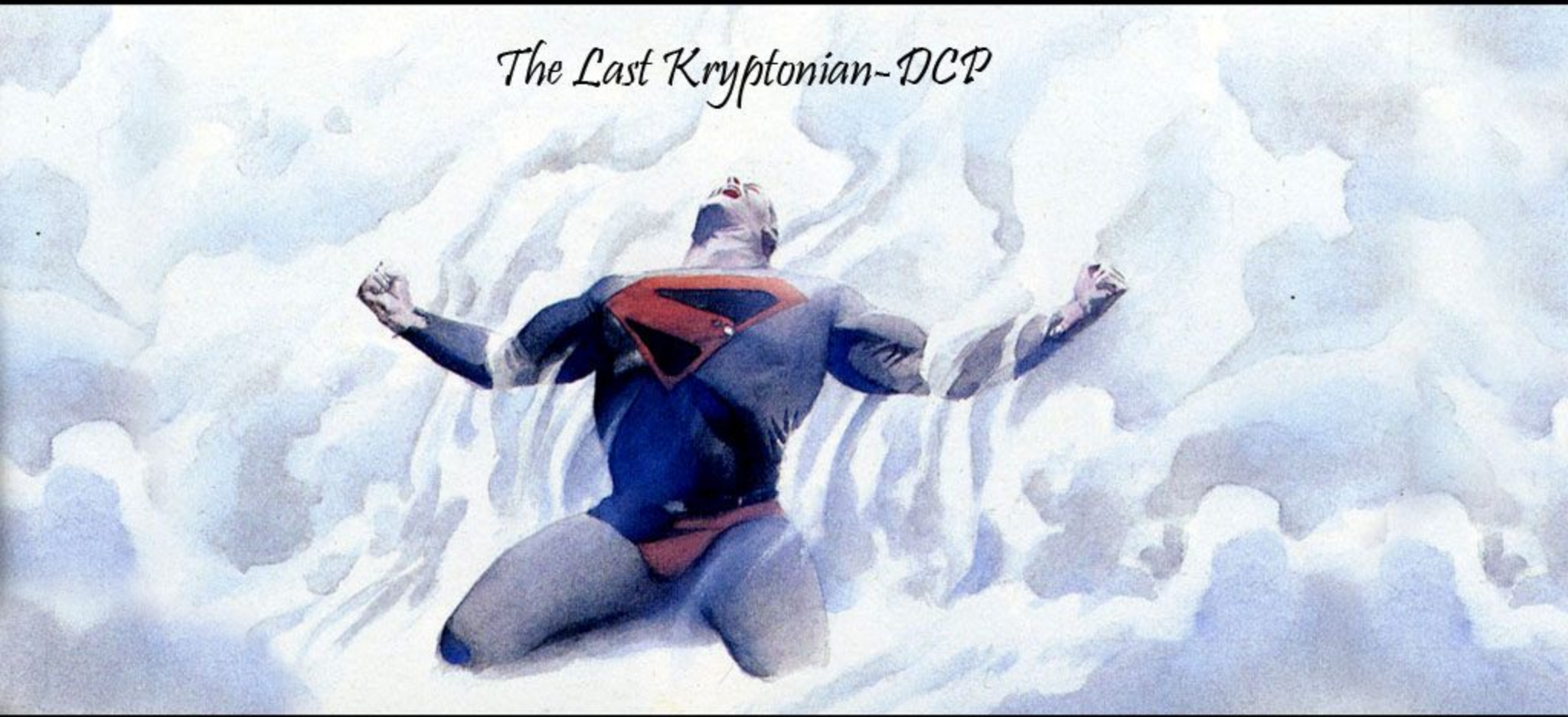
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